Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • National Weather Service

NOTICE: This publication is available at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/.

1.   National Weather Service (NWS) data and products form a national information data base and infrastructure that can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community. NWS will utilize the Internet's World Wide Web presentation tools and technologies, where applicable, to ensure timely and cost effective access to all users of NWS information and to make NWS information more easily accessible and useful to the public.   This directive provides policy to address the technical and content requirements for NWS Websites.

2.   This policy establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

2.1   Each Regional and Office Director is responsible for implementing the technical and content requirements of this Directive.

3.   Technical Requirements. All NWS World Wide Web presentations will:

3.1.   Use the presentation templates and graphics provided on the NWS WWW Developers Page.

3.2.   Follow applicable Government-wide, Departmental, and NOAA standards and policies.

3.3.   Comply with Technical standards 1194.22 (Web-based intranet and internet information and applications) of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998 for web accessibility by persons with disabilities (http://www.section508.gov/).

3.4.   Comply with Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, "Privacy Policies on Agency Web Sites" (http://www.osec.doc.gov/webresources/Egov_Privacy.htm).

3.5.   Be constructed following standards, specifications, and guidelines developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Pages should minimize use of third-party plug-ins or proprietary technologies. If plug-ins or proprietary technologies are used, pages must ensure information and functionality is also available for users without the plug-in or proprietary technologies.

3.6.   Include software for monitoring utilization.

3.7.   Provide adequate security via a server under the supervision of an officially identified NWS Information Technology Security Officer. Services provided by or shared with a partner (e.g., other Federal agency) or commercial service under contract will have security in place and enforced which is equivalent to DOC, NOAA, and NWS IT security requirements.

4.   Content Requirements. All NWS World Wide Web presentations will include:

4.1.   A disclaimer.

4.2.   A link to the NWS privacy policy statement that is labeled "Privacy Policy."

4.3.   Contact information for the web master for technical feedback, and for the individual(s) responsible for page content.

4.4.   The date of last update to the page.

4.5.   A means for users to electronically submit comments, questions, or accessibility concerns. This may include <mailto> email links and feedback forms. Use of web forms is preferred. In cases where use of forms is not practical, the text of a <mailto> link should be descriptive (e.g. Contact Us, Webmaster, etc.) and the actual email address should be masked using scripting or encryption so that the actual email address from the web pages or code cannot be obtained.

4.6.   Features which clearly notify the user they are leaving NWS (e.g. "jump pages") for all links to non-Federal Government sites.

4.7.   Such other content as may be required by Government-wide, Departmental (http://www.osec.doc.gov/webresources/DOCWebPolicies_BestPractices.html) or NOAA (http://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/ciopol.htm) directives.

        Signed by   March 25, 2004
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Brigadier General David L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.)   Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services